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During our overland journey to Chiricahua, we were attacked at daybreak on Monday by a band of thirty Apaches. After a lively skirmish we beat the marauders off, but three of our men were killed, among whom was the boy of 17, named Frank, the son of Joe Martin, who was captured and borne away by the savages in spite of our best efforts.

The scrimmage occurred in central Arizona, not more than a mile from the mouth of San Francisco mountain, whose fumes were being wafted by the retreating Indians before we could saddle up and give effective chase.

On continuing our march, the faithful, bereaved father was forced to admit that to follow the enemy into the mountain defiles would be no act of gallantry, but a certain death, and slaughter of the whole pursuing force. We must, he agreed, bide our time and wait for an opportunity to retaliate, and provoke another attack in some place where we might interrupt the flight of our wild foes and thus rescue the captive.

As the Apaches would not probably return to their prisoner to death at once, Joe Martin, who was in Indian ways, replied: "I'm thankful that the Indians that they'll likely want to adopt him into the tribe, and meantime they'll be getting a new warrior. I'll pretend to let him go, and I've got hopes that, if our plans fail, I'll manage to escape somehow. But, if I don't, I'll be sure to get my revenge within reach of that red neck. I'd know him anywhere—that lassoed and captured fellow."

The guide was a tremendously powerful fellow, in the prime of life, and as he spoke his dark gray eyes flashed with a gleam of cunning. He was an ex-warrior of the plains mighty well he qualified under.

At the mouth of about 30 men, all armed with muzzle loading rifles and Colt's revolvers, the latter quite a new weapon then. Hence we did not fear to go on. The night before we had seen a few wild Indians, very few of whom at that early day possessed firearms. Our only real danger lay in falling into an ambush, and so we took every precaution to avoid it.

After our fruitless pursuit of the hostile Indians, we pressed that we should continue our route alone, and I was left until we reached a certain pass he knew of, one we must necessarily pass, in order to escape a 60 mile detour.

"The redskins are sure to be waiting for us there, boys," he said. "They can't get away from this place, and I'll be at all. They'll think that we suppose them to be far away and will walk right through this trap. If we were gone enough to get away from us, we'd be sure to get alive. If this hell-yer keeps up we'll show the murdering hounds on the track or not. I'll show them the difference in the open plain. When we get through this, I reckon this band won't go on the warpath again in a hurry."

At the mouth of the canyon, a place opposite the mouth of the pass, the bottom of which was, as Joe had hoped, overgrown by stunted bushes and long grass, we found that the Indians, as his sides were composed—for two miles up, Joe said—of vertical rock.

"Don't correct the wagons as usual, my boys," he said. "I'll be sure to get away from this place, and I'll be at all. They'll think that we suppose them to be far away and will walk right through this trap. If we were gone enough to get away from us, we'd be sure to get alive. If this hell-yer keeps up we'll show the murdering hounds on the track or not. I'll show them the difference in the open plain. When we get through this, I reckon this band won't go on the warpath again in a hurry."

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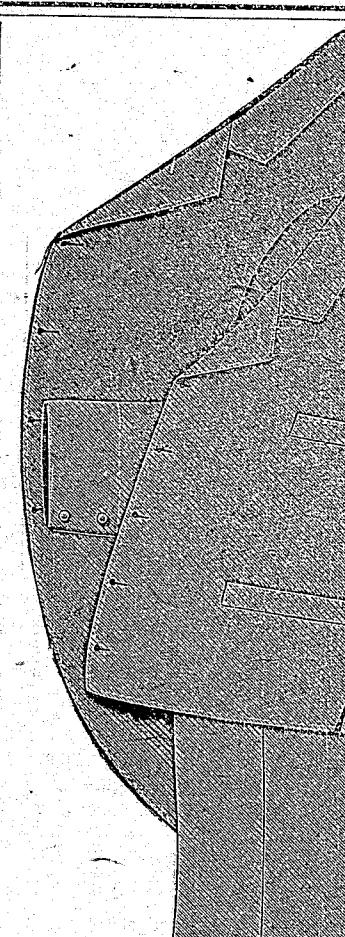
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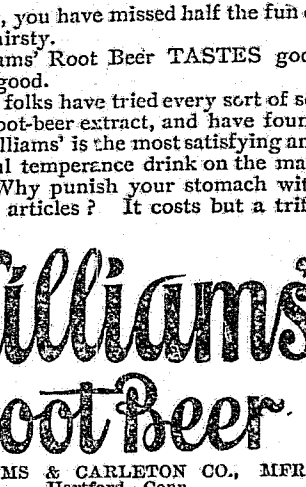
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